

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2001
PARAMEDIC TASK FORCE MEETING
Holiday Inn
Burbank, CA

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>EMSA STAFF PRESENT</u>	<u>ALTERNATES PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>ALTERNATES ABSENT</u>
Debbie Becker	Nancy Steiner	Nancy Justin	Dean Anderson	Linda Anderson
Bill Cody	Craig Stroup	Mike Metro	Bill Bower	Nancy Eubanks
Kevin White	Connie Telford	Frank Pratt	Carol Gunter	Dick Mayberry
			Jim Holbrook	Linda Mulgrew
			Sabina Imrie	David Nevins
			Bill Koenig	
			Tom McGinnis	
			Kym Mitchell	
			Jan Ogar	
			Kevin Rittger	
			Cheryl Smith	
			Sam Stratton	

I Review and Approval of August 7, 2001 Meeting Minutes

The August 7, 2001 minutes were approved with no changes.

II Setting of the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III Status of Proposed Revisions to the Paramedic Regulations

Nancy Steiner reported that the Commission on EMS approved the proposed changes to the Paramedic Regulations at the September 26, 2001 Commission meeting. However, the Department of Finance did not approve the fiscal impact statement for the fee portions of the regulations and requested that the EMS Authority submit a Governor's Action Request (GAR) with the governor's office for approval. If the Governor approves the fees, there should be no problem with the Department of Finance and the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approving the proposed regulations. If the Governor does not approve the fees, the EMS Authority will remove the portions of the regulations referring to the fees and submit only the *Denial/Revocation Standards* and the *Recommended Guidelines for Disciplinary Orders and Conditions of Probation*. It is anticipated that the regulations will go into effect by May 2002 if there are no unexpected delays.

IV EMS System Evaluation and Improvement Program Guidelines (EMSS-EIP)

The PTF members continued reviewing the EMSS-EIP Guidelines document. Discussion on data collection and reporting included which resource documents to use to develop process

indicators. Some members felt that the IAFF document might be more compatible nationwide for comparison, but more patient care and patient outcome indicators may be needed. There was also some discussion of what data components will be necessary to collect for each level (state, local, and service provider).

Craig Stroup distributed to the PTF members drafts of an Example of Fully Developed State EMS Core Indicator and an Index of State EMS Core Indicators that are being developed by the Data Vision Group. These documents list a number of Components, Subjects, Measures, Core Indicators and Sub-indicators including:

- Clinical - Medical Treatment Protocol Utilization, Outcome, Procedures and Medications, for a number of medical/trauma conditions;
- Access and Utilization - EMS System Access;
- Dispatch - Assignment of Resources;
- Response - Lapse of Time;
- Transportation - Lapse of Time;
- Receiving Facility - Patient Destination Profiles;
- Base Hospital Medical Control;
- Public Education & Prevention - System Utilization;
- Paramedic - Training Program Profiles;
- Risk Management - Infectious Disease;
- Personnel - Response Unit Configurations;
- Equipment - Response Profiles;
- Consumer Response; and
- Cost of Services.

It was stated that once in place, state, local, or provider agencies could query the statewide system with off the shelf programs such as Access, Excel, or BP Charts to obtain information regarding any of the indicators identified. Craig Stroup requested that the PTF members send any comments on these two documents to Bonnie Sinz or him on the list serve.

There was also some discussion that it is still difficult to get patient outcome data and that legislation may be required to access patient outcome information. It was stated that there are models in place that could be used for the legislation required concerning patient confidentiality, such as the Ryan White Act. Craig will bring to the attention of the Data Vision Group some of the points that were discussed at this PTF meeting, such as the need to stay consistent with other programs that are already being worked on (such as the IAFF and NHTSA) and emphasizing the need for outcome data and developing legislation for QI protection and meeting HIPAA requirements. There was also a recommendation for working with the Consumer Action Trial Lawyers Association before introducing any legislation. Frank Pratt will send a contact for the Trial Lawyers Association to Nancy Steiner.

The PTF members made some minor changes to the EMSS-EIP Guidelines that will be reflected in the draft for the next meeting.

There was some discussion whether or not the EMSS-EIP Guidelines document should be put

in regulations or just used as a reference document. Some members felt that if the Guidelines were only a reference document that it would be easier to make changes and be a more flexible document, but that changes would not be made without constituent input. It was also mentioned that if the Guidelines were in regulations that it might be easier for some agencies to get funding or resources to be able to follow the Guidelines. It was also suggested that there be mandatory data reporting, but that the Guidelines be left as a reference document. For the next meeting, Nancy Steiner asked the PTF members to think about any items in the Guidelines that should be put in regulations that aren't already stated in the proposed regulations.

There was some discussion of building incentives for following the Guidelines into the program, such as an award for improvement through the EIP Program, or grant funding for helping agencies with implementation. There was also some discussion that currently a provider agency applying for a grant would have to go through the local EMS Agency. Nancy Steiner will check to see if there are federal rules that require that grant proposals go through the local EMS Agencies or if a provider could apply directly to the EMS Authority.

For the next meeting, the PTF members felt that they should begin working on the definitions. Nancy Steiner will send out an email regarding some of the discussion from this meeting and a list of some of the definitions that have been developed for the members to review. She will also send out the CEMSA data elements.

It was suggested that the PTF members begin to think about how the information in the Guidelines will be disseminated. Some suggestions were doing a roll out at the EMSAAC Conference and the CFCA Conference.

It was also suggested that the PTF members should start thinking about the Data Collection and Reporting and Evaluation sections that need to be developed.

V Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2001 in Sacramento.

VI Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.